



PLANNING AHEAD 2010 HURRICANE SEASON QUICKLISTS

BEFORE A STORM: Prepare Your Pets

The following tips were updated with information obtained from the Miami-Dade County Emergency Preparedness 2010 web pages, and originally based on The Miami Herald's "Hurricane Watch 2009" special publication.

- ❑ Prepare a pet emergency plan since we live in a mandatory evacuation zone.
 - If you want to take your pets with you, your options include
 - staying with friends or family
 - making a reservation at a pet-friendly hotel in a non-evacuation zone
 - boarding your pet at your veterinarian or other location, or
 - pre-registering at one of two pet-friendly shelters in Miami-Dade County (see below). Red Cross and other shelters do not allow animals except for service dogs (seeing eye dogs, etc)
 - Leaving your pets home alone if you evacuate is a last resort and not recommended. If you must leave your animals at home
 - separate dogs from cats
 - put them in the most secure room of the house along with litter boxes, dry food and plenty of water
- ❑ Make arrangements ahead of time to shelter your pet(s).
 - Only two Miami-Dade shelters accept pets. Space is limited and pre-registration is mandatory.
 - The E. Darwin Fuchs Pavilion at the Miami-Dade County Fair & Exposition grounds, 10901 SW 24th St., can hold 150 pets and 350 people. Animals and humans will be housed on separate sides of the 49,000-square-foot building.
 - Dr. Michael M. Krop Senior High School, 1410 NE 215 St., in Aventura.
 - The limit is four (4) pets per household (dogs, cats, gerbils, guinea pigs, hamsters, mice/rats, rabbits under 10 pounds, ferrets and birds).
 - A family member must stay with the pets at the shelter.
 - For registration in Miami-Dade, call 3-1-1 to request an application or download a PDF application online (part of the "Pet Shelter Booklet") at www.miamidade.gov/animals/disaster_preparedness.asp. The Pet Shelter Booklet also is at the Village website (www.keybiscayne.fl.gov) under the Hurricane/Flood Information main menu item.

PETS – VKB 2010 Hurricane Season Quicklist, pg. 2

- To pre-register your pet(s), you must provide
 - proof of residency within an evacuation zone
 - current vaccination and medical records for each pet. (Annual rabies vaccinations and a visible Miami-Dade County dog license are required by Miami-Dade County Code.)
- You must bring supplies for your pet (pet carrier, food, medications, toys, litter box and litter, etc.) as well for yourself.
- You will receive a tentative acceptance letter upon receipt and verification of eligibility. Pre-registration DOES NOT guarantee acceptance into either of the two shelters.
- Inquire now if your veterinarian has boarding facilities or other arrangements for keeping animals. Make an appointment to inspect the kennel, and ask about staff and security. If you are satisfied that the facilities are safe, arrange now to board your cat or dog in case of emergency. If a hurricane approaches, call to confirm the arrangements.
- A list of pet-friendly hotel chains is available online at www.petswelcome.com or www.dogswelcome.com
- ❑ Assemble a hurricane kit for your pet ahead of time. Many items will be useful even if you are not required to evacuate and take shelter at home. (You can review the County's Disaster Preparedness Animal Supplies Checklist (PDF available at www.miamidade.gov/animals/disaster_preparedness.asp or at the Village website (www.keybiscayne.fl.gov) under the Hurricane/Flood Information main menu item.)
- ❑ Buy a pet carrier slightly larger than your pet needs in case a boarding facility's in-house cages are full. Pet carriers are required at shelters and are recommended for evacuation to hotels or houses of friends/family.
- ❑ Take an extra bag of dry food and a water container with your pet's name and any medicines your pet may need.
- ❑ Make sure your pet's vaccinations are up-to-date, and that you have records and proper ID. All pet boarding facilities require these documents.
- ❑ Ensure that your pets are wearing secure collars with ID.
- ❑ Take photos of your pet(s) with their owner(s) to prove ownership in case your pet is lost.

Have a familiar toy, blanket or other item available for each animal.

PETS – VKB 2010 Hurricane Season Quicklist, pg. 3

- ☐ Read up on what you might need to treat basic wounds, shock or other injuries should your pet need assistance.
- ☐ Aquarium owners may want to buy a battery-operated aerator or a small generator to run the air pump if power fails.

If an evacuation order is not given, and you shelter in place:

- ☐ Make sure you have at least two week's worth of pet food, clean water and medication.
- ☐ Make sure pets wear secure collars with ID.
- ☐ Gather vaccination histories in case officials call for immunization information.
- ☐ Bring all pets indoors before a storm approaches. Never leave a house pet outside or tied up during a storm.
- ☐ Have a familiar toy, blanket or other item available for each animal.

After the storm:

- ☐ Do not let your pets roam free. They could become lost or consume contaminated food or water.
- ☐ Carry photos of your pets in case they are lost.
- ☐ If your pet is lost, call Miami-Dade's Answer Center at 3-1-1 or 305-468-5900 [TDD 305-468-5402]. In Broward, call the Animal Care and Regulation Division at 954-359-1313.